



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
August 14, 2013
Approved by the Board, September 11, 2013

1. Call to Order (Owen Smith)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2013, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p. m.

2. Roll Call (Jeffry Carpenter)

Secretary Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. All 21 Board Seats were filled. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant). Fifteen of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jeffry Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, Ann Eggleston, Betty Fox, Michael Genewick, John Gresham, Fred Mariscal, , Jeff McManus, Clinton Oie, Jason Peers, Barbara Savage (Alternate for Bill Funderburk), Owen Smith, Jane Usher, Briana Valdez and James Wolf. Joane Pickett arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Jack Humphreville, Patricia Lombard, Daniel Whitley and Greg Wittmann. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 13, so the Board could take such votes. Also attending: 19 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Approval of the Minutes (Jeffry Carpenter)

MOTION (by Mr. Genewick, seconded by Ms. Usher): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 10, 2013 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

4. President’s Report (Owen Smith)

Mr. Smith announced that Board Member Fred Mariscal was elected Treasurer of LANCC (the L.A. Neighborhood Councils Coalition).

A. Board Vacancies

Mr. Smith noted that Alternates are needed for: Area 2 (Citrus Square); Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews); Area 12 (We-Wil); Other Non-Profit and Religion.

Board Member Joane Pickett arrived at this time.

B. Ethics Training

Mr. Smith noted the following from the Agenda: All new board members and alternates (along with returning board members whose certification is more than two years old) must

complete both trainings by September 1, 2013, in order to continue to be able to vote on funding motions before the board. The course is available online at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>

Board Members whose ethics training is incomplete or due for renewal:

Patricia Lombard - Not Completed

James Wolf – Expired 1/13/12

Fred Mariscal - Not Completed

John Gresham – Expired 2/14/13

Jack Humphreville – Expired 5/25/13

Briana Valdez - Not Completed

Joane Pickett – Expired 7/11/13

Jane Usher - Expired 6/13/13

C. Funding Training

Mr. Smith noted the following from the Agenda: In addition to Ethics training, all board members and alternates are now REQUIRED to take a new funding training (about the new system of NC checking accounts that will be launched later this summer) by September 1. The course is at <http://www.slideshare.net/EmpowerLA/nc-checking-account-training-62413>. The last page of the presentation contains a link - <http://www.empowerla.org/boardregistration> - to a completion form you can submit to register your attendance. Board members and alternates MUST complete both trainings before September 1. After September 1, budget-related votes will be taken only among board members who have completed the required training. Board members that do not complete BOTH trainings by September 1 will lose their voice in any and all GWNC budget/financial matters. Board members who have completed Funding training: Smith, Carroll, Carpenter, Oie, Whitley. All others must do so by September 1.

5. Local Government Updates

A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

Sharon Shapiro of L.A. City Council District Four reported that Wilshire Blvd. subway construction will start in September at St. Andrews and work east. Current activity includes tree trimming at Wilshire and Crenshaw.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org), reported that the Melrose BID (Business Improvement District) was approved on July 31, and will go into effect in January, 2014. It includes Melrose Ave. from Fairfax to Highland. He also reported that funding for the Department of Aging (deeply affected by the national budget sequester) will go before the City Council on August 23.

6. Presentation of Citizen Recognition Award (Fred Mariscal): Marguerite “Chickie” Byrne

Mr. Mariscal cited Ms. Byrne’s community service and presented her with the Award. Ms. Byrne described the importance of community building and service.

7. Community Concerns / Public Comments

- A. Grant update from Los Angeles Team Mentoring (Sabrina Vegnone)
Ms. Vegnone was unable to attend and there was no update.

8. Treasurer's Report and Budget Items (Patti Carroll)

- A. Monthly Budget Report/approval
Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the Monthly Spending Report.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its Treasurer's Report of August 14, 2013.

DISCUSSION: Wilshire United Methodist Church "May-Dec 2012" should be "May-Dec 2013."

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 15 in favor; one abstained.

- B. YTD Budget Report.
Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the Year-to-Date GWNC Budget.

9. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville was unable to attend and there was no report.

10. City Budget Issues (Humphreville)

Mr. Gresham reported that on August 16 the City Council will discuss the DWP contract with the IBEW. Mr. Mariscal read a statement from Mr. Humphreville about the DWP and that contract.

11. Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

12. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

13. Transportation Committee (Gerda McDonough)

- A. August 7 TC meeting re-scheduled for September 4.
Mr. Smith noted the above.

14. Outreach Committee (Fred Mariscal)

- A. Citizen Recognition Award – next month: Jane Gilman.
Mr. Mariscal noted the above.
- B. New outreach ideas (to align with Strategic Plan) discussed at August Outreach meeting:
- i. GWNC local merchant discount cards (for stakeholders who provide us with their e-mail addresses for mailing list and/or "like" us on FB) – GWNC consultant Elizabeth Fuller will provide card mock-up and options for how plan could work, to take to LBA merchants.

Mr. Mariscal noted the above.

ii. Larchmont Zoning Walk/Discussion – joint effort with LUC – Saturday, 9/21, public invited to walk South Larchmont with us and discuss visions for future, zoning, etc. Mr. Mariscal reported that on Saturday, September 21st at 10:00 a.m. the GWNC will sponsor a walk along Larchmont Blvd. from Beverly to First Street, to make observations and share ideas. Ms. Fuller described an idea by Land Use Committee Member John Kaliski prompted by land use and “Q” condition issues. Ms. Usher suggested coordinating with Larchmont Village property and business owners, and residents.

iii. Transit shelter/bus bench ads – now free to NCs. Will investigate specs and apply if appropriate.

Mr. Mariscal noted the above.

C. Update in Change in Outreach Committee meeting date/time: 1st Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Mariscal noted the above.

15. Board Member Reports and Comments

Board Member Alternate Karen Gilman announced the August 26th Taste of Larchmont event that benefits Hope Net, and a September 21st 12:30 p.m. bus tour of Heritage Square by the Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society.

A. NC Plan Review Issues/Motions (see handout) (Jeffrey Carpenter).

Mr. Carpenter described Committee work on issues such as the definition of a Stakeholder. Ms. Usher further described Committee work and added that the City Charter refers to a Stakeholder as one who “lives, works or owns property” in a neighborhood; the debate is whether to include other people who claim a stake in a neighborhood.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Eggleston): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the following Resolution:

WHEREAS in January 2013, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners launched a comprehensive Neighborhood Council Plan Review and Reform Initiative and convened three regional committees of neighborhood council leadership to review critical issues and concerns of the City’s neighborhood councils and their operation; and

WHEREAS the President of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners has previously transmitted to all members of the City Council the recommendations of the three regional neighborhood council leadership committees regarding removal of the current definition of “factual basis” stakeholder from Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.811(a)(2); and

WHEREAS the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, has previously responded to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners on the question of “factual basis” stakeholders

with its resolution of May 8, 2013, filed as a Community Impact Statement under Council Files 11-0600-S59 and 12-1682; and

WHEREAS that resolution strongly affirmed the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council's understanding of the consensus of the three regional neighborhood council leadership committees that that there should not be a City-wide requirement for all Neighborhood Councils to include "factual basis" stakeholders as either electors or as elected board members; and

WHEREAS that resolution further affirmed that the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports each neighborhood council having the option to include "factual basis" or "community interest" stakeholders as long as roles, responsibilities and requirements are unambiguously defined in that neighborhood council's bylaws, and that "factual basis" or "community interest" stakeholders so defined shall demonstratively represent a significant, relevant, continuing, active and constructive interest in that neighborhood on par with the commitment of those who live, work, or own property in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners at their meeting of June 27, 2013, requested that members of the three regional neighborhood council leadership plan review and reform committees present nine recommendations of the regional committees' recommendations to their neighborhood councils and return with comments within 60 days;

THEREFORE, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC) hereby resolves as follows:

Regarding recommendation number 1 on boundary adjustment policies, the GWNC supports the concept that an entire neighborhood council vote on boundary adjustments, including stakeholders in the original and proposed new areas. However, the GWNC cannot support the recommendation as currently drafted. This measure will only work when there is an unambiguous definition of stakeholder. Until that time, and as drafted, any neighborhood council's boundaries could be altered by organized factions of ambiguous "factual basis" or "community interest" stakeholders. In the absence of a clear stakeholder definition becoming available, recommendation number 1 will only work if participating stakeholders in boundary elections are strictly limited, as defined in the City's Charter, to those living, working or owning real property within the boundaries of the neighborhood council.

Regarding recommendation number 2, the GWNC generally concurs with the recommendation of merging and consolidating grievance and complaint procedures, except that peer review panels should consist entirely of regional neighborhood council leadership and that BONC, DONE staff and Council staff participation should be limited to advisory roles as requested by a peer review panel.

Regarding recommendation number 3, the GWNC concurs with the recommendation to review board selection procedures, again with the proviso that questions of stakeholder definition be satisfactorily resolved as mentioned above and that reasonable measures for affording a given neighborhood council's basic operation, as properly defined in that council's bylaws, can be accommodated.

Regarding recommendation number 4, the GWNC concurs with the recommendations on election policies and term limits.

Regarding recommendation number 5, the GWNC concurs with the recommendations on Brown Act compliance and posting policies.

Regarding recommendation number 6, the GWNC supports the recommendation that neighborhood councils continue to have a role in the development of rules and regulations developed by DONE and to have an advisory role in the appointment of the Department General Manager and DONE Commissioners.

Regarding recommendation number 7, the GWNC supports these recommendations to develop improved information and communication systems.

Regarding recommendation number 8, the GWNC supports the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners being given more power to enforce its policies.

Regarding recommendation number 9, the GWNC supports, as part of the exhaustive efforts of DONE in its responsibilities, the option of recommending the removal of a neighborhood council board without having to recommend the involuntary decertification of that neighborhood council.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with no objections.

16. Public Comments

Madeline Idefanso, Wilshire Branch Library Manager at 149 N. St. Andrews at Council, announced that the Library is "open for business to community partnerships"; a matching grant is available to the Library. She also announced an August 24th book sale.

Stakeholder Joseph O'Heron, who owns property at 612 S. La Brea, requested help in bringing city council attention to the need for repairs to the alley that runs behind the La Brea properties from Carling Way to 6th Street. He provided a map and photos, which Ms. Fuller agreed to pass on to our Transportation Committee and La Brea-Hancock representatives for review.

Board Member Jane Usher recused herself from discussing or voting on the following Items and left the Meeting at this time. Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher) took her place.

17. Land Use Committee (LUC) (James Wolf)

[Each Item's first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]

A. CUB application for full line of alcohol sales at the Hollywood Historic Hotel (5162 Melrose).

Issue: Applicants are requesting a conditional use permit to provide complimentary wine to guests in the hotel lobby, and to sell a full line of alcoholic beverages at a planned bar in the building. (NOTE: this application and bar are completely separate from the application for liquor sales at the Nue Studio, also in the hotel building, which GWNC voted to support last month.) Committee members were concerned about the potential sales of full bottles of liquor, and the applicants said they would voluntarily accept a condition prohibiting sales by the bottle. There was also some discussion of whether or not the planned 147-seat size of the bar area should be scaled back a bit.

Recommended MOTION: (see below). (Note: the LUC's vote on this item was 6 in favor of the motion, and 1 opposed.)

Mr. Wolf described the issue. There was discussion of the intent to prohibit large bottles, not necessarily small full bottles. Hotel representative Elizabeth Peterson described the family-owned hotel's 35 years in the community and intended service.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the application for a CUP to allow a full line of liquor sales at the Hollywood Historic Hotel, with the condition that sales of 750 ml or larger bottles of distilled spirits be prohibited.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 15 in favor; one opposed.

Mr. Wolf noted that the following item was presented for information only. No action was requested or required at this time.

B. Small Lot Subdivision at 851 N. Cherokee Ave.

Issue: The applicants are seeking a small-lot subdivision to build three small houses on the RD1.5 lot at this address (which could hold 4 apartment units by right). They are also asking for a height variance, to allow a roof deck with guard rail on the 3-story middle building (the other two buildings would be only 2 stories). There were discussions of the various design elements and orientations of the proposed buildings, as well as possible modifications that could negate the need for the height variance. Committee members asked the developers to seek feedback from neighbors and return to a future meeting for further discussion. (No city hearing date is set yet.)

Mr. Wolf noted the above. He and Ms. Fuller explained the Committee's consideration process.

Other potential agenda items for future LUC meetings:

- Application for parcel map to divide a lot into two lots at 800 N. Sycamore
- Zoning adjustment at Marlborough School
- Presentation on plans for mixed-use development at 5100 Wilshire Blvd. (Oasis Church site)
- CUB renewal for 3Twenty Wine Lounge (320 S. La Brea)
- Update on LC (Camerford Lofts) project
- Setback elimination for Kangnam Restaurant (4113 W. Olympic Blvd.)
- 853 S. Lucerne

- Variance and CUB application for Larchmont Bungalow
- Application for density bonus at 807 N. Hudson -
- 12-lot small-lot subdivision at 816-828 N. June St.
- Neighbor complaints regarding Yogaworks studio (230 N. Larchmont)
- Potential medical marijuana dispensary at 215 N. Larchmont

Commenting on the proposed marijuana dispensary on Larchmont, Joane Pickett said Frank Fox, owner of the Larchmont building in question, has confirmed that a marijuana dispensary has leased space in the building but has not replied to information requests. Ms. Pickett said she has also been working on a dispensary next to the old Nat King Cole Post Office, which is 150 feet from St. Brendan School, though State law requires it to be at least 500 feet away.

18. Announcements and Adjournment

Mr. Smith noted the next General Board Meeting date: September 11, 2013. Ms. Pickett reported that the City Building and Safety Dept. rejected the Zoning Variance application of Flywheel Retail Store and Testing Room at 147 N. Larchmont. Flywheel must apply for a zoning change, which is a longer and more complex process than a variance application. Mr. Smith and Ms. Fuller noted that Board Members must complete the Funding Training by September 1st or they will not be able to vote on funding Motions at future meetings.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer